



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Attorney Docket No.: 990809

Date: August 9, 1999



BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

CONTINUING APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL
RULE 1.53(b)

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b) is a

☒ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-Part

application of prior pending Application No. 08/885,175, filed June 30, 1997.

For (Title): VEHICULAR DATA EXCHANGE SYSTEM AND METHOD THEREFOR

By (Inventors): Harry SERETTI and Carl SCHAUKOWITCH

1. ☒ A Declaration and Power of Attorney is attached. The attached Declaration and Power of Attorney is:
- ☒ a. A copy of the Declaration and Power of Attorney from the parent application. (Used with the same or fewer inventors and (a) a copy of the prior application or (b) a revised, reformatted or edited version of the prior application that does not contain new matter.)
- ☐ b. A new Declaration and Power of Attorney. (Used with the same, fewer or additional inventors and (a) a copy of the prior application, (b) a revised, reformatted or edited version of the prior application that does not contain new matter, or (c) a new specification.)
2. ☒ The filing fee is calculated below:

CLAIMS IN THE APPLICATION AFTER ENTRY OF
ANY PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT NOTED BELOW

FOR:	NO. FILED	NO. EXTRA
BASIC FEE		
TOTAL CLAIMS	23 - 20	= 3
INDEP CLAIMS	5 - 3	= 2
<input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS PRESENTED		

* If the difference is less than zero, enter "0".

SMALL ENTITY

RATE	FEE
	\$ 380
x 9 =	\$ 27
x 39 =	\$ 78
+130 =	\$
TOTAL	\$ 485

OTHER THAN A
SMALL ENTITY

RATE	FEE
	\$ 760
x 18	\$
x 78	\$
+260	\$
TOTAL	\$

3. ☒ Check No. 206 in the amount of \$485 to cover the filing fee is attached. The Commissioner is not authorized to charge any other fees that may be required to complete this filing, or to credit any overpayment. Two duplicate copies of this sheet are attached.
4. ☒ Cancel claims 3, 4, 9, 11, 14, 15 & 16 of the application before calculating the filing fee. At least one independent claim is retained for filing purposes.

5. ☒ Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:
--This is a ☒ Continuation ☐ Division ☐ Continuation-in-Part of Application No. 08/885,175 filed June 30, 1997--
6. ☒ Drawings (Fig(s). 1-5) are attached.
7. ☐ Priority of foreign application(s) No. _____ filed _____ in _____ is claimed under 35 U.S.C. §119 and/or §365(b).
☐ The certified copy was filed in prior Application No. _____ on _____.
☐ A certified copy of the above foreign application(s) is filed herewith.
8. ☐ Priority of U.S. Provisional Application(s) No. _____ filed _____ is claimed under 35 U.S.C. §119.
☐ Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:
--This nonprovisional application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application(s) No. _____ filed ____--
9. ☐ The prior application is assigned of record to _____ recorded at Reel _____, Frame _____.
10. ☐ This application is filed by fewer than all the inventors named in the prior application (37 C.F.R. §1.53(b)(1)). Delete the following inventor(s) named in the prior application:

11. ☒ A Preliminary Amendment is attached. Claims added by this Amendment are properly numbered consecutively beginning with the number next following the highest numbered claim in the application.
12. ☒ An Information Disclosure Statement is attached.
13. ☒ Small entity status:
☒ a. A small entity statement is attached.
☒ b. A small entity statement was filed in the parent application and such status is still proper and desired.
☐ c. Small entity status is no longer claimed.
14. ☒ Other: Certificate of Express Mail; Letter to the Official Draftsperson
15. ☒ The power of attorney in the application is to Carl Schaukowitch, Registration No. 29,211.
☒ a. The power appears in the attached Declaration and Power of Attorney.
☐ b. Since the power does not appear in the attached Declaration and Power of Attorney, a substitute Power of Attorney is also attached.
16. ☒ Address all future communications to:

Carl Schaukowitch

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202-463-7700

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Schaukowitch

Carl Schaukowitch

Registration No. 29,211

Applicant or Patentee: Harry Seretti et al.
Serial or Patent No.: n/a Attorney Docket No.: 970625
Filed or Issued: herewith
For: VEHICULAR DATA EXCHANGE SYSTEM AND METHOD THEREFOR

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27(b))-INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c), for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled: VEHICULAR DATA EXCHANGE SYSTEM AND METHOD THEREFOR

described in:

☒ the specification filed herewith.

☐ application serial no. _____, filed _____.

☐ patent no. _____, issued _____.

I have not assigned, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

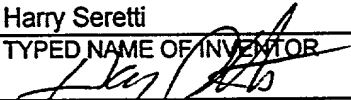
Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:


☒ no such person, concern, or organization.

☐ persons, concerns or organizations listed below:

*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities (37 CFR 1.27). I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate (37 CFR 1.28(b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Harry Seretti
TYPED NAME OF INVENTOR

Signature of Inventor
Date 6/16/97

Carl Schaukowitch
TYPED NAME OF INVENTOR

Signature of Inventor
Date 6/30/97

TYPED NAME OF INVENTOR
Signature of Inventor
Date

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

H. SERETTI et al.

Art Unit: (not assigned)

Rule 53(b) Continuation of
Application No.: 08/885,175

Examiner: (not assigned)

Filed: (herewith)

Docket No.: 990809

For: VEHICULAR DATA EXCHANGE SYSTEM AND METHOD THEREFOR

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the
above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add claims 21-30 as follows:

--21. A vehicular data exchange system according to
claim 1, wherein the vehicular financial data units include
an identity of a responding vehicle dealership.--

--22. A vehicular data exchange system according to
claim 1, wherein each of said computer terminals is a
personal computer.--

--23. A vehicular data exchange system adapted for use
to exchange vehicular data relating to a vehicle,
comprising:

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a plurality of computer terminals, each of said computer terminals including an input device for inputting the vehicular data that includes vehicular characteristics data units and vehicular financial data units and a display device for visually displaying the vehicular data inputted into said plurality of computer terminals, each of said computer terminals operative to transmit and receive both the vehicular characteristics data units and the vehicular financial data units; and

a processor in communication with the plurality of computer terminals for controlling the vehicular data whereby

the vehicular characteristics data units inputted into any selected one of said computer terminals are transmitted to remaining receiving ones of said computer terminals for display on respective ones of said display devices associated with said receiving ones of said computer terminals and whereby

the vehicular financial data units inputted into at least a responding one of said receiving ones of said computer terminals in response to the vehicular characteristics data units displayed on said display device of said at least responding one of said receiving ones of said computer terminals are

transmitted to said selected one of said computer terminals for display on said display device associated with said selected one of said computer terminals.--

--24. A vehicular data exchange system according to claim 23, wherein the vehicular characteristics data units are inputted and transmitted by an inquiring human operator and wherein the vehicular financial data units are inputted and transmitted by a responding human operator.--

--25. A vehicular data exchange system according to claim 24, wherein the vehicular characteristics data units are transmitted at discretion of the inquiring human operator.--

--26. A vehicular data exchange system according to claim 23, wherein the vehicular characteristics data units are simultaneously displayed on said display device of said selected one of said computer terminals with the vehicular financial data units after the vehicular financial data units are transmitted to said selected one of said computer terminals.--

--27. A vehicular data exchange system according to claim 23, wherein the vehicular financial data units include an identity of a responding vehicle dealership.--

a plurality of computer terminals, each of said computer terminals including an input device for inputting the vehicular data that includes vehicular characteristics data units and vehicular financial data units and a display device for visually displaying the vehicular data inputted into said plurality of computer terminals, each of said computer terminals operative to transmit and receive both the vehicular characteristics data units and the vehicular financial data units; and

the vehicular characteristics data units are inputted by an inquiring human operator into characteristics data fields for display on said display device of any selected one of said computer terminals and are transmitted at discretion of the inquiring human operator to remaining receiving ones of said computer terminals for display on respective ones of said display devices associated with said receiving ones of said computer terminals and whereby

the vehicular financial data units are inputted by a responding human operator into a financial data field for display on said display device of at least a responding one of said receiving ones of said computer terminals in response to the vehicular characteristics data units displayed in the characteristics data fields on said display device of said at least responding one of said receiving ones of said computer terminals and are transmitted by the responding human operator to said selected one of said computer terminals for display on said display device associated with said selected one of said computer terminals.--

--29. A vehicular data exchange system according to claim 28 wherein the vehicular characteristics data units and the vehicular financial data units are simultaneously displayed on said display device associated with said selected one of said computer terminals after the vehicular financial data units are transmitted.--

--30. A vehicular data exchange system adapted for use to exchange vehicular data relating to a vehicle among a plurality of system users, the vehicular data including vehicular characteristics data units and vehicular

financial data units, the vehicular data exchange system
comprising:

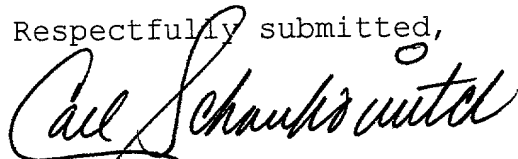
a plurality of computer terminals operative to
transmit and receive the vehicular data so that the
plurality of system users are capable of transmitting to
each other and receiving from one another both the
vehicular characteristics data units and the vehicular
financial data units.--

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10, 12, 13 and 17-30 are pending in
the application. By this amendment, claims 21-30 are
added.

Favorable consideration of the application is
respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe
anything further is desirable in order to place the
application in even better condition for allowance, the
Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative
at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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08/885,175

VEHICULAR DATA EXCHANGE SYSTEM AND METHOD THEREFOR

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is related to a vehicular data exchange system. More particularly, the present invention is directed to vehicular data exchange system so that users of the vehicular data exchange system can, within a brief time period, simply and easily exchange vehicle data with one another for the purposes of buying and selling motor vehicles and/or obtaining appraisal data for motor vehicles.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

In order to better serve a prospective automobile buyer, both new and used selling car dealers often must be willing to accept a trade-in vehicle from the prospective buyer or risk losing that prospective buyer to a competitor. Unfortunately, some trade-in vehicles are a particular make and model that are unfamiliar to the selling car dealer. To provide the prospective buyer with a trade-in value, the selling car dealer must either guess at an appropriate trade-in value of the trade-in vehicle, ascertain a general value of the trade-in vehicle as published in a "blue book" or contact a competitor which is familiar with the value of that type of make, model and year of the vehicle.

Each of these options has drawbacks for the selling car dealer. Guessing at the value of the trade-in vehicle usually results in one of two outcomes. Either too high of a value afforded to the trade-in vehicle results in loss of income to the dealer or too low of a value discourages the prospective customer who might shop for a new vehicle elsewhere. The "blue book"

provides only a generalized value of the trade-in vehicle. Also, a subscription to the current "blue book" is expensive and the "blue book" becomes obsolete within a short period of time. Contacting a competitor is time consuming and often frustrating because even if the competitor extends the courtesy of returning a telephone call to provide an appropriate trade-in value figure, it might be hours or even days after the prospective customer has already left the selling dealer's premises. Further, the competitor is typically providing only his best estimate of the trade-in value of the trade-in vehicle and not often is the competitor interested in tendering a buy figure for the purpose of purchasing the trade-in vehicle from the selling dealer.

After the selling dealer sells the customer a new or used car, the trade-in vehicle can either be placed on the used or "pre-owned" car lot of the selling dealer for resale, taken and sold at an automobile auction or sold to an automobile wholesaler. When the trade-in vehicle fails to sell within a set period of time, for example, ninety (90) days, the selling dealer would most likely remove the vehicle from the used car lot and either deliver it to an automobile auction or sell it to a wholesaler to maintain a fresh inventory of used cars.

Typically, the wholesaler dictates the purchase price of the trade-in vehicle which the wholesaler is willing to pay. Sometimes this results in a financial loss to the selling dealer.

Occasionally, an unscrupulous used car manager might accept monetary "kickbacks" from a wholesaler for selling car lot vehicles unwanted by the selling dealer to the wholesaler at an

exceptionally low price. Such an exceptionally low price results in further financial loss to the selling dealer.

There is a need in the automobile sales industry to provide a vehicle exchange system whereby a selling dealer can rapidly and conveniently sell or obtain sales price information on used or trade-in motor vehicles. It would be beneficial if a prospective customer of the selling dealer remains on the premises while bids or sales price information are being solicited and obtained from other automobile dealers. There is also a need in the automobile sales industry to provide a vehicle data exchange system whereby users to the vehicle data exchange system can rapidly and conveniently provide a firm buy figure to the selling dealer offering the trade-in vehicle of the prospective customer. It would be beneficial to selling dealers to minimize the use of automobile wholesalers in order to obtain the maximum dollar amount for the trade-in vehicle from those users of the vehicular data exchange system.

OBJECTS AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the invention to provide a vehicular data exchange system so that users to the vehicular data exchange system can exchange vehicle data with one another for the purposes of buying and selling motor vehicles and/or obtaining appraisal data information for motor vehicles.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a vehicular data exchange system so that users thereto can quickly and conveniently exchange vehicle characteristics data and vehicle sales price data.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a vehicular data exchange system whereby vehicular data can be exchanged within a time period during which a prospective customer of the selling dealer remains on the premises.

5 A still further object of the present invention is to provide a vehicular data exchange system that could minimize or even eliminate the use of automobile wholesalers.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a vehicular data exchange system which would yield firm buy figures from other automotive dealers within minutes from the time the vehicular characteristics data are disseminated from a selling dealer.

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15 A still further object of the present invention is to provide a vehicular data exchange system capable of transmitting vehicular characteristics data units such as make, model and year of the vehicle to only those users interested in receiving such data.

20 Yet still further, another object of the present invention is to provide a vehicular data exchange system that requires a minimum of time and a minimum of effort for a user to input vehicular data into the system.

25 Accordingly, a vehicular data exchange system of the present invention which is adapted for use to exchange vehicular data relating to a vehicle is hereinafter described. In its broadest form, the vehicular data exchange system includes a plurality of computer terminals and a processor. Each of the computer terminals includes an input device for inputting the vehicular

data and a display device for visually displaying the inputted vehicular data. The vehicular data includes vehicular characteristics data units such as make, model and year of a vehicle and vehicular financial data units such a buy figure or appraisal figure.

The processor controls the vehicular data whereby the vehicular characteristics data units inputted into a first one of the computer terminals are transmitted to a plurality of other ones of the computer terminals for display on respective ones of the display devices associated with the other ones of the computer terminals. The processor also controls the vehicular data whereby vehicular financial data units inputted to at least a responding one of the other ones of the computer terminals in response to the vehicular characteristics data units displayed on the display device of the at least responding one of the other ones of the computer terminals are transmitted to the first one of the computer terminals for display on the display device associated with the first one of the computer terminals.

The present invention also is a method of exchanging vehicular data of a vehicle. The method of the present invention includes inputting vehicular characteristics data units of the vehicle into a data inquiring computer terminal, processing the vehicular characteristics data units by transmitting the vehicular characteristics data units to a plurality of responsive computer terminals for display thereon, inputting vehicular financial data units into at least one of the plurality of data responsive computer terminals in response to the vehicular

characteristics data received by the responsive computer terminals and transmitting the vehicular financial data units to the inquiring computer terminal for display on the inquiring computer terminal.

5 The method of the present invention also includes the processing the vehicular characteristics data units by selecting select ones of the plurality of the data responsive computer terminals to which the vehicular characteristics data units are transmitted. The method also includes repeating transmission of
10 the vehicular characteristics data units to the select ones of the plurality of responding computer terminals until the select ones of the data responding computer terminals receive the vehicular characteristics data units. The method of the present invention includes repeating transmission of the vehicular
15 characteristics data units to the select ones of the plurality of responding computer terminals which occurs upon expiration of a first predetermined period of time and stopping the repeating step upon expiration of a second predetermined period of time which is longer than the first predetermined period of time.

20 These and other objects of the present invention will become more readily appreciated and understood from consideration of the following detailed description of the exemplary embodiments of the present invention when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

25 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a schematic diagram of a vehicular data exchange system of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a schematic diagram of a processor for controlling exchange of vehicular data by employing the vehicular data exchange system of the present invention;

Fig. 3 is a sample display screen shown on a display device of the vehicular data exchange system of the present invention formatted for requesting a buy/appraisal figure for a vehicle with vehicular characteristics data units listed thereon;

Fig. 4 is a sample display screen shown on the display device of the vehicular data exchange system of the present invention formatted for responding to the requested buy/appraisal figure for the vehicle with vehicular characteristics data units listed thereon; and

Fig. 5 is a flow chart illustrating how the vehicular data exchange system of the present invention operates.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

A vehicular data exchange system 10 of the present invention is generally introduced in Figs. 1 - 5 and includes computer hardware and software. The vehicular data exchange system 10 is adapted for use to exchange vehicular data, as more particularly described below, relating to a vehicle such as an automobile, a truck, a motorcycle, an earth moving vehicle, a boat, an airplane or the like. However, the vehicular exchange data system of the present invention shall be described, by way of example only, for exchanging vehicular data for vehicles typically sold at automobile dealerships. It would be understood by a skilled artisan that each automobile dealership would be electronically

connected to the vehicular data exchange system by a computer terminal.

With reference to Fig. 1, the vehicular data exchange system 10 of the present invention includes a plurality of computer terminals 12a - 12f and a processor 14. One of ordinary skill in the art would appreciate that the computer terminals 12a - 12f represent an entire network of many computer terminals. Each of the computer terminals 12a - 12f include an input device 16 shown, by way of example, as a computer keyboard for inputting the vehicular data into the vehicular data exchange system 10 and a display device 18, commonly known as a computer monitor, for visually displaying the vehicular data inputted into the plurality of computer terminals 12a - 12f. Therefore, the computer terminals 12a - 12f are associated with respective ones of input devices 16a - 16f and display devices 18a - 18f. Generally, the vehicular data include vehicular characteristics data units and vehicular financial data units as discussed below.

The processor 14 controls the vehicular data that is inputted into the computer terminals 12a - 12f. An illustration of the operation of the vehicular data exchange system 10 of the present invention is best shown in Fig. 1 by viewing the arrows which represent the vehicular data. The vehicular characteristics data units are inputted into a first one of the computer terminals 12a by the input device 16a and are thereafter transmitted to the processor 14 as represented by arrow "A". From the processor 14, the vehicular characteristics data units represented by arrows "B" are then transmitted to a plurality of

other ones of the computer terminals 12b - 12d for display on respective ones of the display devices 18b - 18d that are associated with the other ones of the computer terminals 12b - 12d.

5 Thereafter, vehicular financial data units are inputted to at least one responding one of the other ones of the computer terminals 12b in response to the vehicular characteristics data units displayed on the display device 18b of the at least responding one of the other ones of the computer terminals 12b - 12d. The vehicular financial data units represented by arrow "C" are transmitted through the processor 14 and to the first one of the computer terminals 12a for display on the display device 18a associated with the first one of the computer terminals 12a.

15 As noted, only certain other computer terminals 12b - 12d received the vehicular characteristics data units while the computer terminals 12e -12f did not receive the vehicular characteristics data units. This is because a discriminator 20 is included in the vehicular data exchange system 10 of the present invention as shown in Fig. 2. The discriminator 20
20 operates to select only certain ones of the other ones of the plurality of computer terminals 12b - 12f to which the vehicular characteristics data units are to be transmitted. Having the discriminator 20 incorporated into the vehicular data exchange system 10 of the present invention permits automobile dealerships
25 to receive only vehicular characteristics data units for vehicles in which they have an interest. Thus, automobile dealerships that have no interest in purchasing certain vehicles or no

expertise in providing assessment data for certain vehicles will not receive vehicular characteristics data units for such vehicles. Therefore, the automobile dealerships that use the vehicular data exchange system 10 of the present invention will not waste any time or resources reviewing the display device for undesirable vehicular characteristics data units but will invest some time only for those vehicles with interesting vehicular characteristics data units.

In Fig. 2, the processor 14 of the vehicular data exchange system 10 of the present invention also includes a repeater 22. The repeater 22 is operative in conjunction with the discriminator 20 to repeat transmission of the vehicular characteristics data units to the selected ones of the other computer terminals until the selected ones of the computer terminals receive the vehicular characteristics data units. It is possible that one or more of the computer terminals are busy either receiving or inputting data and, therefore, no vehicular characteristics data units are capable of being transmitted to the busy ones of the computer terminals. The repeater 22 then permits the vehicular characteristics data units to be transmitted at least one more time to the previously busy computer terminal.

Also shown in Fig. 2, the processor 14 includes a first timer 24 that is operative in conjunction with the repeater 22. The first timer 24 times a first predetermined time period. Upon expiration of the first predetermined time period, the repeater 22 causes the processor 14 to again attempt to transmit the

vehicular characteristics data units to those computer terminals that were previously busy and did not receive the vehicular characteristics data units. It is possible that some of the previously busy computer terminals remain busy even after another attempt is made to send the vehicular data characteristics units thereto. The first timer 24 resets to time another first predetermined time period and, upon expiration of the first reset predetermined time period, another attempt is made to transmit the vehicular characteristics data units to those previously busy computer terminals. The first timer can be set in such a manner that the repeater can repeat the repeating process as often desired. It is preferred that the first predetermined time period is in a range between 3 and 5 minutes.

However, to limit the repeating process of the repeater 22, the processor 14 includes a second timer 26. The second timer 26 is operably connected to the processor 24 and times a second predetermined time period. The second predetermined time period is longer than the first predetermined time period. Upon expiration of the second predetermined time period, the repeater 22 is rendered inoperative and, therefore, regardless of the interest of one or more automobile dealerships in receiving vehicular characteristics data units, no further attempts at retransmitting these particular vehicular characteristics data units will be made. The second predetermined expiration time period can be any time desired by a skilled artisan. However, an optimum predetermined expiration time period can be in a range between 15 minutes to one hour after first attempting the

transmission. This predetermined expiration time period is considered optimum because a prospective automobile customer with a trade-in vehicle would, most likely, remain on an automobile dealer's premises for this time period. It is beneficial to the automobile dealership seeking vehicular financial data units from other dealerships receive the same during the time period during which the prospective customer remains on the premises. Once the prospective customer leaves the premises, any vehicular financial data units has minimal value.

One of ordinary skill in the art would comprehend that most computer terminals include a speaker which broadcasts various sounds driven by appropriate software. The vehicular data exchange system 10 of the present invention includes an alarm device 26 which operates in conjunction with the speaker to generate sound. The alarm device is operative to alert an operator of the other ones of the plurality of computer terminals that vehicular characteristics data units are received and available for display on the display device. Further, the alarm could also be a video alarm that displays, for example, indicia on the display device 18.

Fig. 3 illustrates a sample display screen 28 entitled "Request for Buy/Appraisal Figure" and shown on the display device 18 of the vehicular data exchange system 10 of the present invention. The sample display screen 28 is formatted for requesting a buy/appraisal figure for a vehicle with vehicular characteristics data units mentioned thereon. The vehicular characteristics data units include a make, a model, a year and a

general description of the vehicle. Although not by way of limitation, the description of the vehicle includes a body style of the vehicle, a color of both interior and exterior of the vehicle, an amount of mileage indicated on an odometer of the vehicle and a general condition of the vehicle with ratings of clean, average or rough. Other vehicular characteristics data units are vehicle identification number, i.e. VIN #, location of the vehicle, engine size and type, general condition of the vehicle, condition of the tires. Also, blank space appears on the sample data display screen 28 to write other types of vehicular characteristics data unit including but not limited to other equipment and remarks.

Fig. 4 is a second sample display screen entitled "Response to Request for Buy/Appraisal Figure" and shown on the display device of the vehicular data exchange system of the present invention formatted for responding to the requested buy/appraisal figure for the vehicle with vehicular characteristics data units listed thereon. The vehicular financial data units of the vehicle include a firm buy figure from the responding automobile dealership which is interested in purchasing the vehicle. Alternatively, the vehicular financial data units of the vehicle include an appraisal figure which indicates to the requesting automobile dealer a fair market value of the vehicle. A skilled artisan would appreciate that other financial data units such as a bid price amount, an assessment price amount, a wholesale price amount, and a retail price amount could also be provided on the second sample display screen. Also, the requesting automobile

dealership knows which automobile dealership responded to the request. Now, the requesting automobile dealership can call the telephone number of the responding automobile dealership and speak to the contact who is also listed on the second sample display screen to arrange the consummation of the buy and sale of the trade-in vehicle. Thus, the vehicular financial data units of the vehicle further include information also identify a source of vehicular financial data units that were transmitted in response to the request.

With reference to Fig. 5, implementing the vehicular data exchange system 10 of the present invention is a software program that includes steps of a method of exchanging vehicular data of a vehicle. Step S110 of the method of the present invention is inputting vehicular characteristics data units of the vehicle into a data inquiring computer terminal. Step S112 is processing the vehicular characteristics data units and step 114 is selecting select ones of responsive computer terminals to transmit the vehicular characteristics data units. Step 118 determines if the responsive computer terminals receive the vehicular characteristics data units. If it is determined that the responsive computer terminals receive the vehicular characteristics data units, then step S120 is implemented. Step S120 is inputting vehicular financial data units into at least one responsive computer terminal. Step S122 is transmitting the vehicular financial data units to the inquiring computer terminal.

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5 If it is determined that the responsive computer terminals did not receive the vehicular characteristics data units, then step S124, waiting for a first predetermined period of time, is implemented. After expiration of the first predetermined period of time, step S126 is repeating transmission of the vehicular characteristics data units to the non-receiving ones of the responsive computer terminals. Thereafter, it is determined by step S128 whether a second predetermined period of time has expired. If the second predetermined period of time has not expired, then steps S124 and S126 are repeated. If the second predetermined period of time has expired, step 130 is executed which stops repeating the transmission of vehicular characteristics data units to non-receiving ones of the responsive computer terminals.

15 The vehicular data exchange system enables automobile dealers to quickly and conveniently exchange vehicle characteristics data and vehicle sales price data of a trade-in vehicle within a time period during which a prospective customer of the selling dealer remains on the premises. Cooperating
20 automobile dealers could minimize or even eliminate the use of automobile wholesalers by using the vehicular data exchange system. The vehicular data exchange system would provide firm buy figures from other automotive dealers within minutes from the time the vehicular characteristics data are disseminated from a
25 selling dealer. To eliminate computer clutter and wasting automobile dealership resources, the vehicular data exchange system transmits vehicular characteristics data units such as

make, model and year of the vehicle to only those automobile
dealers interested in receiving such data. Use of the vehicular
data exchange system requires only a minimum of time and effort
for all automobile dealers to buy and sell trade-in or inventory
5 vehicles.

Accordingly, the present invention has been described with
some degree of particularity directed to the preferred embodiment
of the present invention. It should be appreciated, though, that
the present invention is defined by the following claims
10 construed in light of the prior art so that modifications or
changes may be made to the preferred embodiment of the present
invention without departing from the inventive concepts contained
herein.

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WE CLAIM:

1. A vehicular data exchange system adapted for use to exchange vehicular data relating to a vehicle, comprising:

a plurality of computer terminals, each of said
5 computer terminals including an input device for inputting the vehicular data that includes vehicular characteristics data units and vehicular financial data units and a display device for visually displaying the vehicular data inputted into said plurality of computer terminals; and

10 a processor for controlling the vehicular data whereby the vehicular characteristics data units inputted into a first one of said computer terminals are transmitted to a plurality of other ones of said computer terminals for display on respective ones of said display devices associated with the other ones of
15 said computer terminals and whereby vehicular financial data units inputted to at least a responding one of the other ones of said computer terminals in response to the vehicular characteristics data units displayed on said display device of said at least responding one of the other ones of said computer
20 terminals are transmitted to said first one of the computer terminals for display on the display device associated with the first one of the computer terminals.

2. A vehicular data exchange system according to claim 1, further comprising a discriminator for selecting select ones of
25 said other ones of said plurality of computer terminals to which the vehicular characteristics data units are transmitted.

3. A vehicular data exchange system according to claim 2, further comprising a repeater operative in conjunction with said discriminator to repeat transmission of said vehicular characteristics data units to said select ones of said other ones of said plurality of computer terminals until said select ones of the computer terminals receive said vehicular characteristics data units.

4. A vehicular data exchange system according to claim 3 further comprising a first timer operative in conjunction with said repeater whereby, upon expiration of a predetermined expiration time period, said repeater is rendered inoperative.

5. A vehicular data exchange system according to claim 1, wherein the vehicular characteristics data units include a make, a model and a year of the vehicle.

6. A vehicular data exchange system according to claim 5, wherein the vehicular characteristics data units include a description of the vehicle.

7. A vehicular data exchange system according to claim 6, wherein the description of the vehicle includes at least one of a body type of the vehicle, a color of the vehicle, an amount of mileage displayed on an odometer of the vehicle and a general condition of the vehicle.

8. A vehicular data exchange system according to claim 1, wherein the vehicular financial data units of the vehicle include at least one of a bid price amount, an assessment price amount, a wholesale price amount, and a retail price amount.

9. A vehicular data exchange system according to claim 1, wherein the vehicular financial data units of the vehicle include at least one of a bid price amount, an assessment price amount, a wholesale price amount, and a retail price amount.

5 10. A vehicular data exchange system according to claim 1, wherein the vehicular financial data units of the vehicle further include information identifying a source of vehicular financial data units transmitted.

10 11. A vehicular data exchange system according to claim 1, further comprising an alarm device operative to alert an operator of another one of the plurality of computer terminals that vehicular characteristics data units are available for display thereon.

15 12. A method of exchanging vehicular data of a vehicle, comprising the steps of:

inputting vehicular characteristics data units of the vehicle into a data inquiring computer terminal;

processing the vehicular characteristics data units by transmitting the vehicular characteristics data units to a

20 plurality of responsive computer terminals for display thereon;

inputting vehicular financial data units into at least one of the plurality of data responsive computer terminals in response to the vehicular characteristics data received by the responsive computer terminals; and

25 transmitting the vehicular financial data units to said inquiring computer terminal for display on said inquiring computer terminal.

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein the step of processing the vehicular characteristics data units includes selecting select ones of said plurality of said data responsive computer terminals to which the vehicular characteristics data units are transmitted.

14. A method according to claim 13, further comprising the step of repeating transmission of said vehicular characteristics data units to said select ones of said plurality of responding computer terminals until said select ones of the data responding computer terminals receive the vehicular characteristics data units.

15. A method according to claim 12, the step of repeating transmission of said vehicular characteristics data units to said select ones of said plurality of responding computer terminals occurs upon expiration of a first predetermined period of time.

16. A method according to claim 15, further comprising the step of stopping the repeating step upon expiration of a second predetermined period of time which is longer than the first predetermined period of time.

17. A method according to claim 12, wherein the vehicular characteristics data units include a make, a model and a year of the vehicle.

18. A method according to claim 12, wherein the vehicular characteristics data units include a description of the vehicle.

19. A method according to claim 12, wherein the vehicular financial data units of the vehicle include at least one of a bid

price amount, an assessment price amount, a wholesale price amount, and a retail price amount.

20. A method according to claim 19, wherein the vehicular financial data units of the vehicle include identifying

5 information identifying a source of each responsive computer terminal transmitting the vehicular financial data units.

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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Harry SERETTI et al.

Art Unit: (not assigned)

Rule 53(b) Continuation of
Application No.: 08/885,175

Examiner: (not assigned)

Filed: (herewith)

Docket No.: 990809

For: VEHICULAR DATA EXCHANGE SYSTEM AND METHOD THEREFOR

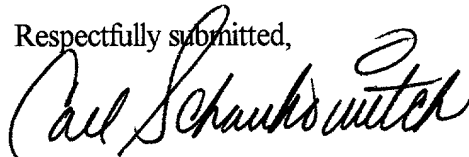
LETTER TO THE OFFICIAL DRAFTSPERSON

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please substitute the attached four (4) sheet(s) of formal drawings depicting Figures 1-5 for the corresponding drawings filed with the above-identified application.

Respectfully submitted,



Carl Schaukowitch
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Telephone: (202) 463-7700

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The vehicular data exchange system of the present invention includes a plurality of computer terminals and a processor. Each of the computer terminals include an input device for inputting the vehicular data and a display device for visually displaying the inputted vehicular data which include vehicular characteristics data units and vehicular financial data units. The processor controls the vehicular data whereby the vehicular characteristics data units inputted into a first one of the computer terminals are transmitted to a plurality of other ones of the computer terminals for display on respective ones of the display devices associated with the other ones of the computer terminals. The processor also controls the vehicular data whereby vehicular financial data units inputted to at least a responding one of the other ones of the computer terminals in response to the vehicular characteristics data units displayed on the display device of the at least responding one of the other ones of the computer terminals are transmitted to the first one of the computer terminals for display on the display device associated with the first one of the computer terminals. A method of implementing the present invention is also described.

FIG. 1

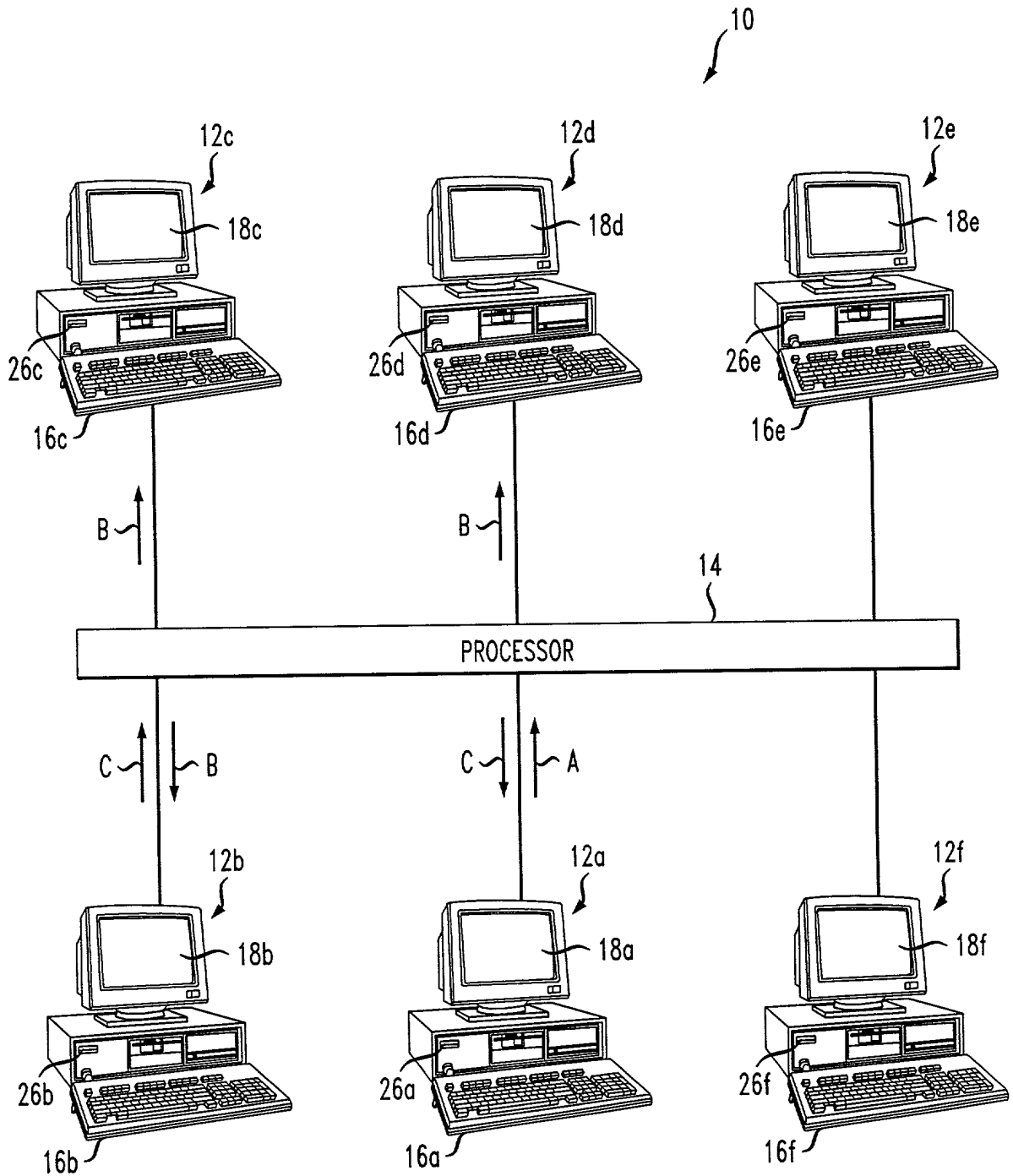


FIG. 2

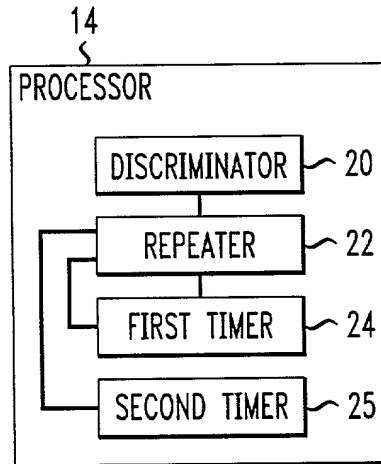


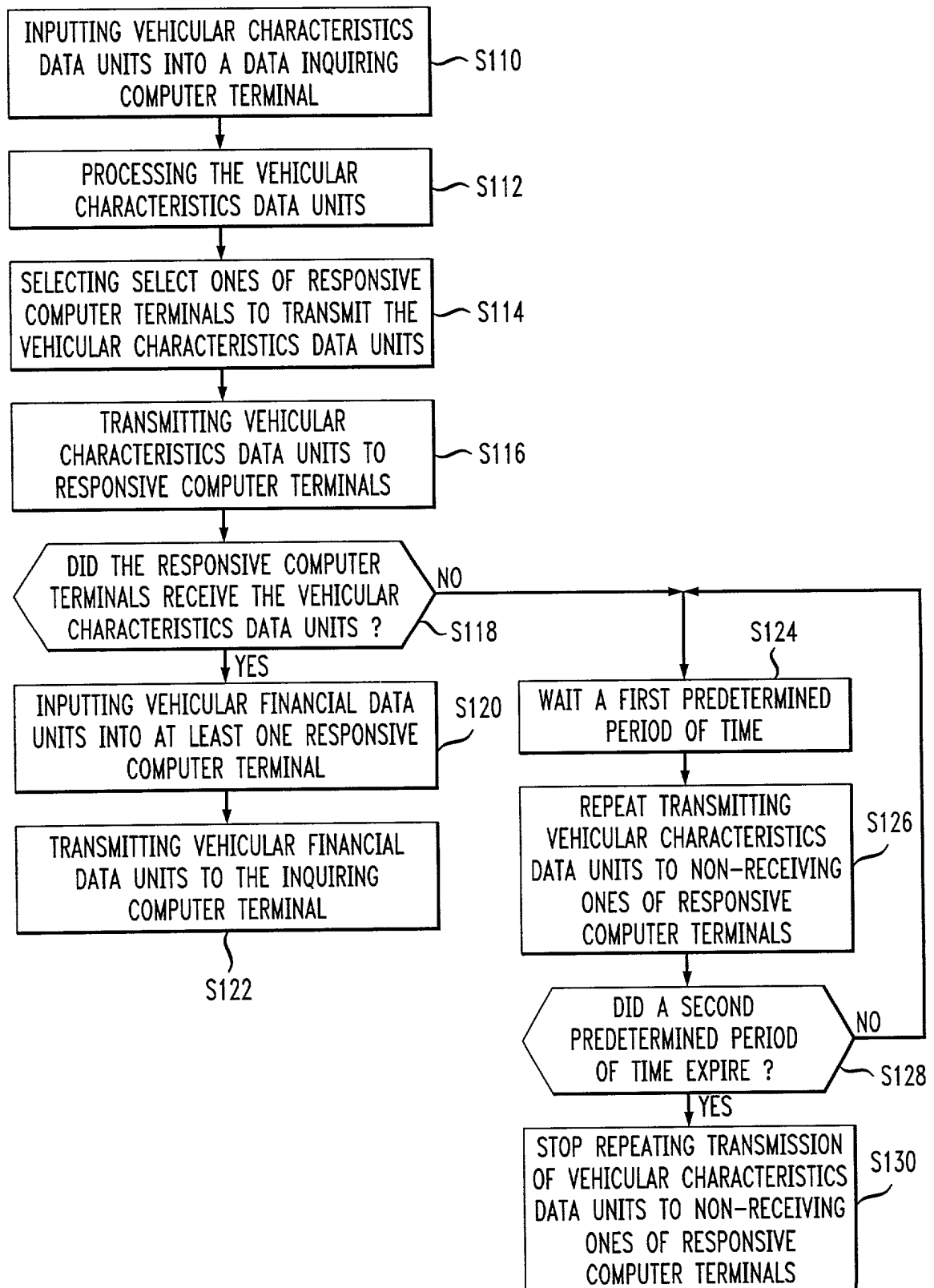
FIG. 3

ABC Auto Dealership	AUTO AUCTION ON-LINE SYSTEM Customer ID Number: ABCxxxxx
Request for Buy/Appraisal Figure for	
Vehicle Inventory Number: _____ Located in Zip Code: _____	
Requested by: (Time and Date) and no Later Than: (Time and Date)	
Make: _____	Model: _____ Year: _____
Body Style: _____	Color: _____ Int. _____ Ext. _____
Mileage: _____	Vin#: _____
Engine: _____	Condition of Glass: _____
General Condition: _____ Clean _____ Average _____ Rough _____	
Condition of Tires: _____ New _____ Greater Than 50% _____ Less Than 50% _____	
Other Equipment: _____	
Remarks: _____	

FIG. 4

XYZ Auto Dealership Contact: _____	AUTO AUCTION ON-LINE SYSTEM Customer ID Number: XYZxxxxx at (999) 999-9999
Request for Buy/Appraisal Figure for	
Vehicle Inventory Number: _____ Located in Zip Code: _____	
Requested by: (Time and Date) and no Later Than: (Time and Date)	
Make: _____ Model: _____ Year: _____	
Body Style: _____ Color _____ Int. _____ Ext. _____	
Mileage: _____ Vin#: _____	
Engine: _____ Condition of Glass: _____	
General Condition: _____ Clean _____ Average _____ Rough _____	
Condition of Tires: _____ New _____ Greater Than 50% _____ Less Than 50% _____	
Other Equipment: _____	
Remarks: _____	
Response to Request for Buy/Appraisal Figure for	
Vehicle Inventory Number: _____ Located in Zip Code Area: _____	
Our Firm Buy Figure is _____	
Our Appraisal Figure is _____	
Our Firm Buy Figure is Conditional Upon Satisfactory Inspection of the Vehicle at Our Sole Discretion	

FIG. 5



APPLICATION FOR UNITED STATES PATENT DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that

I verily believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: VEHICULAR DATA EXCHANGE SYSTEM AND METHOD THEREFOR

described and claimed in the specification:

Check one

- *a. ☒ attached hereto.
b. ☐ filed on _____ as Application No. _____ and amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

Under Title 35, U.S. Code §119, the priority benefits of the following foreign application(s) and/or United States provisional application(s) filed within one year prior to this application are hereby claimed:

The following application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention were filed in countries foreign to the United States of America either (a) more than one year prior to this application, or (b) before the filing date of the above-named foreign priority application(s) and/or United States provisional application(s):

I hereby appoint the following as my attorneys of record with full power of substitution and revocation to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent Office:

Carl Schaukowitz, Reg. No. 29,211

ALL CORRESPONDENCE IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION SHOULD BE SENT TO:

11700 Bishop's Content Rd., Mitchellville, MD 20721 Ph: 301 390 5867

I hereby declare that I have reviewed and understand the contents of this Declaration, and that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

1 **Typewritten Full Name**
of First or Sole Inventor

Given Name	Harry	Middle Initial	-	Family Name	Seretti
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2 ****Inventor's Signature:**

3 ****Date of Signature:**

Month Day Year

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City	State or Province	Country
------	-------------------	---------

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mailing address,
including country) McKees Rocks, PA 15136

*If Box (a.) is checked, this form may be executed only when attached to the specification (including claims).

****Note to Inventor: Please sign name exactly as it appears above and insert actual date of signing.**

IF THERE IS MORE THAN ONE INVENTOR USE PAGE 2 AND PLACE AN "X" HERE ☒

1 **Typewritten Full Name
of Second Joint Inventor (if any)** Carl - Schaukowitch
Given Name Middle Initial Family Name

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3 ****Date of Signature:** 6 30 1997
Month Day Year

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Citizenship: U.S.A.

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1 **Typewritten Full Name
of Third Joint Inventor (if any)**

2 ****Inventor's Signature:**

3 ****Date of Signature:**

Month Day Year

Residence:

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Citizenship:

Post Office Address:
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of Fourth Joint Inventor (if any)**

2 ****Inventor's Signature:**

3 ****Date of Signature:**

Month Day Year

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Citizenship:

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1 **Typewritten Full Name
of Fifth Joint Inventor (if any)**

2 ****Inventor's Signature:**

3 ****Date of Signature:**

Month Day Year

Residence:

City State or Province Country

Citizenship:

Post Office Address:
(Insert complete mailing address, including country)